Cambridge Unitarians Newsletter - April 2016



Image : The new electronic notice board recently installed in the church hall entrance. Please tell us what you think.

Unitarianism is where we proudly own the heresy label.

Boldly disavow the centre-ground, and the respectable.

Brazenly stand shoulder to shoulder with our fellow misfits and rebels.

Unitarianism is a place to grow, to unfold, to stretch out.

Fearlessly and joyfully ferreting and shuffling our way down new paths.

Wilfully declaring our unified oneness, in spite of our spacious uniqueness.

Unitarianism does not dream of imagined pasts, or wallow in the mire of lifeless custom.

Foolishly we will play the jester to point the way towards a world of unshackled souls.

Profusely striving as dreamers do, towards a world of liberty and happiness.

For in this space beyond assumption, beyond the centre, we live, we strive, we have our being.

> Written by <u>Lewis Connolly</u> (the recentlyappointed Unitarian minister at Ipswich)



Image: Cambridge Unitarians and friends celebrating the 90th birthday of Carol Graham, after morning service on 13 March. Carol's family provided refreshments.

For your diary

Sundays 3, 10, 17, 24 April:

10.30am - family service of prayers, hymns, readings, music and an address followed by tea, coffee and conversation. 6.30pm - quiet service of mindfulness meditation, prayer, reflection and music.

Sunday 3 April: Bring & Share Lunch after morning service.

Wednesdays 6 and 13 April - 7.30 for 8 Evening conversations following up on the theme of the previous Sunday's address.

Saturday 9 April : 3pm - Concert on the church to raise funds for the Medaille Trust, which helps women, men and children who have been freed from human trafficking. Music by harp, keyboard and voice.

Friday 15 April : Cambridge Welcomes Refugees : 4.30pm in the Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge. Fundraising event starting with a peace procession followed by an information fair and panel discussion. In the evening enjoy live music from Afro Tema, The Suits, Souljah Fiya and the Warning Shadows. More info <u>here</u>.

Sunday 17 April : Church AGM follows morning service. Coffee served in the church.

Wednesday 20 April : 7.30pm : Life of the Church Meeting open to everyone. Feedback from the Unitarian Annual Meetings (GA) and talk together about our church's relationship with other congregations similar to our own.

Saturday 23 April : 6pm. 'Let us garlands bring' - a short recital of songs to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Bridget Hardy (mezzo-soprano) and Ralph Woodward (piano). Free sparkling wine will be served from 5.30pm. Reserve a seat by emailing <u>ralphwoodwardtickets@live.co.uk</u>. Adults £10, students £5.

Wednesday 27 April : 12noon-2.30pm. Lunch Club. Offering companionship, good food and an opportunity to talk about a particular issue relevant to the well-being and happiness of retired people or those planning retirement. A donation of around £3 is suggested to cover the cost of the meal. Throughout 2016, we will be exploring 'Attachment and Separation'. Contact: 01480 432284.

Accessibility project

The feasibility plan is complete. If you want to know the final details of the layout of the hall lobby, please ask a committee member. The architect is now seeking a pre-planning application meeting with a City Council planning officer, to discuss the proposal for the ramp and the canopy. As we are situated in a Conservation Area, the City Council takes a special interest in the appearance of buildings. At the meeting we shall learn if the plans need modification before seeking formal approval. In the meantime, Rosemary Watson is gathering information on grant-funding bodies, the activities they support and application dates.

Eastern Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

The UK is divided into a number of Unitarian 'District Associations'. We are a member of the Eastern Union along with the Unitarian churches in Norwich, Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Framlingham and Great Yarmouth.

On 19 March, representatives at a special general meeting considered the viability of the Association in view of the lack of interest by members of the various congregations in attending events. It was decided that, with effect from 1 April, the Association will be suspended for up to two years. During that period it can be revived if four congregations request it, otherwise the remaining funds (about £1200) will be transferred to the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. It may well be in future that informal networking will enable us to interact with our fellow Unitarians either by joining in with their events or by a congregation initiating an event of wide interest.

Congratulations : To Marie and Thom Paisley, and big sister Eve, on the birth of Finn Oliver Paisley on 18 February.

New members : The committee is pleased to welcome as members three people who have been worshipping with us over the past few months - Suzanne Carnwath, Rosemary Watson and Stephen Watson.

Death : We are sorry to tell you that the oldest member of our church, Irene Morrison, died on 21 March.

Church AGM : Sunday 17 April immediately after morning service.

Our church is run on a democratic basis, with the committee elected annually by the church members. There are vacancies for up to 4 people to join the committee. On the agenda will be the statement of accounts and trustees' report for 2015; election of chairman, vice chairman, treasurer, secretary; and appointing auditors.

Anyone may attend the AGM and speak at it, but only 'members' of the church may vote. If you have been part of our community for 6 months, and would like to affirm your commitment to our community by becoming a 'member', please speak to Andrew Brown.

Papers for the AGM will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

Music at morning services:

3 Apr - Julian Warren (organ)
10 Apr - Rosemary Wheeler (piano)
17 Apr - Peter Shepherd (piano)
24 Apr - Jeremy Wong (organ)

About our church

This church belongs to a liberal Christian tradition which welcomes the loving, critical and enquiring spirit. It is founded upon an 'open trust' which imposes no doctrinal tests upon its minister or members. We meet in the spirit which is exemplified in the life and utterances of Jesus, for the worship of God and the service of humankind.

Church address: Memorial Church (Unitarian), 5 Emmanuel Road, Cambridge CB1 1JW

www.cambridgeunitarian.org @CamUnitarian https://www.facebook.com/Cambridge-Unitarians-446299165559139/

Hall Bookings: Sue Tombs 01223 338543 roombookings@cambridgeunitarian.org Minister: Andrew J Brown 01223 576952 minister@cambridegunitarian.org http://andrewjbrown.blogspot.com @caute

Pastoral care: Please let Andrew Brown know of any cases of sickness or if you would like him to meet with you or someone else. **Minister's Rest Days:** Mon, Tue

Minister Emeritus: Frank Walker 01223 874460

Chairman: Andrew Bethune 01480 387883 Vice-Chairman: Tony Burns 01480 432284 Treasurer: Shirley Fieldhouse 01223 426514 Secretary: Brendan Boyle 01480 387883 Committee Members: Katie Burns 01480 432284 Sue Tombs 01223 844454